

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A hybrid protein comprising ~~at least~~ a portion of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3; or a protein having ~~secondary differences or limited variations~~ conservative substitution in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3; and polypeptide comprising an ~~amino acid sequence~~ antigenic determinant which is able to induce an immune response in an animal.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A method for making the hybrid protein of claim 19, comprising culturing a cell containing a recombinant DNA molecule encoding said hybrid protein, under conditions suitable for expression of said DNA molecule; and collecting said hybrid protein.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 20, wherein said cell is a bacterial cell.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A composition comprising the recombinant microorganism of Claim 29.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the recombinant microorganism of Claim 29 and a pharmaceutically compatible diluent or adjuvant.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A method of inducing an immune response in an animal, comprising administering the hybrid protein of Claim 19 to said animal in an amount effective to induce an immune response.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 25, wherein said animal is a human.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A method of inducing an immune response in an animal, comprising administering the recombinant microorganism of Claim 23 to said animal in an amount effective to induce an immune response.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 27, wherein said animal is a human.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): A recombinant microorganism, which produces the hybrid protein of Claim 19.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): The recombinant microorganism of Claim 29, wherein the microorganism is *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The Specification is amended, in order to reflect the fact that U.S. Patent Application No. 09/985,372 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,676,945.

Claims 19-21 and 23-30 are pending.

Claims 20-21, 23-24, and 27-30 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 19 is amended.

Upon entry of the amendment, the expression "secondary differences or limited variations" is deleted, and replaced with "conservative substitution." This amendment is supported in view of the Specification, on page 5, lines 13-17, which states that the "present invention also includes proteins having secondary differences or limited variations in their amino acid sequences which *do not functionally modify them*" (Emphasis added herein.); and in further view of the first full paragraph on page 30 and Figure 2.3 of Devlin (Devlin, Textbook of Biochemistry with Clinical Correlations, 1992, Wiley-Liss), which is cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith.

Additionally, the expression "amino acid sequence" is replaced by "antigenic determinant," which is supported on page 8, lines 2-7.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 19 and 25-26 will remain active.

No new matter is added upon entry of the amendment.